

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) An inhibitor of a Group I intron self-splicing reaction comprising an oligonucleotide having a polynucleotide sequence that binds to a 5' internal guide sequence of a precursor RNA containing a Group I intron, or to a portion thereof, wherein said oligonucleotide ~~is capable of binding with~~ binds to the 5' internal guide sequence of the precursor RNA and ~~of being trans-spliced~~ trans-splices to the 3' exon of the precursor RNA, and wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from ~~{SEQ ID No:1}~~SEQ ID No:1, ~~{SEQ ID No:2}~~SEQ ID No:2, ~~{SEQ ID No:3}~~SEQ ID No:3, and ~~{SEQ ID No:9}~~SEQ ID No:9.

5. (Previously presented) The inhibitor of Claim 4 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No:1 and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Pneumocystis carinii*.

6. (Currently amended) The inhibitor of Claim 4 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from ~~{SEQ ID No:2}~~SEQ ID No:2, ~~{SEQ ID No:3}~~SEQ ID No:3, and ~~{SEQ ID No:9}~~SEQ ID No:9 and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Candida albicans*.

7. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a suicide inhibitor of Claim 4, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting self-splicing of a Group I intron comprising contacting a precursor RNA containing a Group I intron with an oligonucleotide, wherein said oligonucleotide *trans-splices* to a 3' exon sequence of said precursor RNA and inhibits self-splicing of the Group I intron.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises deoxynucleotides, ribonucleotides, or a combination thereof, and said oligonucleotide comprises a 3' terminal ribonucleoside.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotide contains at least one N3' →P5' phosphoramidate or N3' →P5' thiophosphoramidate linkage.

11. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from ~~{SEQ ID No:1}~~SEQ ID No:1, ~~{SEQ ID No:2}~~SEQ ID No:2, ~~{SEQ ID No:3}~~SEQ ID No:3 and ~~{SEQ ID No:9}~~SEQ ID No:9.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises the polynucleotide of SEQ ID No:1 and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Pneumocystis carinii*.

13. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from ~~{SEQ ID No:2}~~SEQ ID No:2, ~~{SEQ ID No:3}~~SEQ ID No:3, and ~~{SEQ ID No:9}~~SEQ ID No:9 and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Candida albicans*.

14. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting the growth of an organism transcribing a precursor RNA containing a Group I intron comprising contacting said organism with an amount of an oligonucleotide effective for growth inhibition, wherein said oligonucleotide ~~is capable of being trans-spliced~~ trans-splices to a 3' exon sequence of said precursor RNA and inhibits self-splicing of the Group I intron, wherein inhibition of self-splicing of the Group I intron inhibits the growth of the organism.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises deoxynucleotides, ribonucleotides, or a combination thereof, and said oligonucleotide comprises a 3' terminal ribonucleoside.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 14 wherein said oligonucleotide contains at least one N3' →P5' phosphoramidate or thiophosphoramidate linkage.

17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from ~~{SEQ ID No:1}~~SEQ ID No:1, ~~{SEQ ID No:2}~~SEQ ID No:2, ~~{SEQ ID No:3}~~SEQ ID No:3 and ~~{SEQ ID No:9}~~SEQ ID No:9.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 14 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises the polynucleotide of SEQ ID No:1 and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Pneumocystis carinii*.

19. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from ~~{SEQ ID No:2}~~SEQ ID No:2, ~~{SEQ ID No:3}~~SEQ ID No:3, and ~~{SEQ ID No:9}~~SEQ ID No:9 and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Candida albicans*.

20. (Currently amended) A method of designing an inhibitor of Group I intron splicing comprising choosing a nucleotide sequence that binds to a 5' internal guide sequence present in precursor RNA containing a Group I intron, or to a portion thereof, and preparing an oligonucleotide having the chosen sequence, wherein said oligonucleotide ~~is capable of binding with~~ binds to the 5' internal guide sequence of the precursor RNA and ~~of being trans-spliced~~ trans-splices to the 3' exon of the precursor RNA.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises deoxynucleotides, ribonucleotides, or a combination thereof, and said oligonucleotide comprises a 3' terminal ribonucleoside.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein said oligonucleotide contains at least one N3' →P5' phosphoramidate or thiophosphoramidate linkage.